

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hirokazu SHODA et al.
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD
Appl. No.: 10/694,981
Filing Date: 10/29/2003
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2622

RECEIVED
APR 02 2004
Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.*

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the

present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

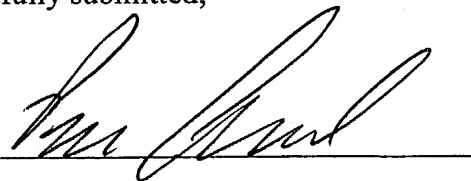
All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Date: April 1, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888

RECEIVED

APR 02 2004

Technology Center 2600

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Date Submitted: April 1, 2004

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/694,981
Filing Date	10/29/2003
First Named Inventor	Hirokazu SHODA
Group Art Unit	2622
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	016907-1579

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	B1	6,504,628	B1	KANNO, et al.	01-07-2003	
	B2	6,654,494	B1	SAWADA, et al.	11-25-2003	
	B3	6,657,746	B1	FUCHIGAMI, et al.	12-02-2003	
	B4	6,499,829	B1	TABATA, et al.	12-31-2002	

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	B5	09/641,339		SAWADA, et al.	08-18-2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

RECEIVED

APR 02 2004

Technology Center 2600

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.



**PROPRIETARY MATERIAL NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC.
TO BE OPENED ONLY BY EXAMINER OR OTHER AUTHORIZED
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EMPLOYEE**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hirokazu SHODA et al.
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND METHOD
Appl. No.: 10/694,981
Filing Date: 10/29/2003
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2622

RECEIVED

APR 02 2004

Technology Center 2600

**PROPRIETARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.56 AND MPEP §§ 724**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following is a listing of copending U.S. patent applications which relate to the above-identified application.

60/471,333 filed May 19, 2003

This document relates to an image processing apparatus. Applicant considers the aforementioned document and the disclosure of their existence as pending application to constitute proprietary information. Accompanying this Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement is a transmittal letter indicating that the materials contained herein are proprietary, as required by MPEP § 724.02.

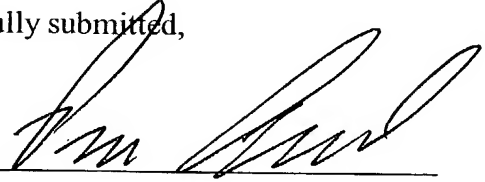
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the foregoing information and provide in the next official communication the information set forth in MPEP § 724.04(a), particularly the information under item (D), so that the applicant can, if

appropriate, subsequently file a petition to expunge those materials, as provided according to MPEP § 724.05.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 1, 2004

By



FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 945-6162

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 40,888



**PROPRIETARY MATERIAL NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC.
TO BE OPENED ONLY BY EXAMINER OR OTHER AUTHORIZED
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EMPLOYEE**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hirokazu SHODA et al.

Title: IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND METHOD

Appl. No.: 10/694,981

Filing Date: 10/29/2003

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2622

RECEIVED

APR 02 2004

Technology Center 2600

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR
PROPRIETARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56 AND MPEP § 724**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement submitting proprietary information to the Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and MPEP § 724. Applicants respectfully request that the information be considered only by the Examiner in charge of the above-caption application, or other authorized Patent and Trademark Office employee.

Respectfully submitted,

By

Date: April 1, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888